

S-356
Grace M.E. Church
Venton vicinity
public worship

1924

Grace Methodist Episcopal Church is one of the most recently built examples of a Gothic Revival church in Somerset County. Erected in 1924, this tee-plan structure follows the same pattern as a dozen churches erected during the previous half-century. Contrasting features include the Palladian type principal windows instead of the Gothic arched ones. Evidently this church was erected on the same foundation as the former church since the marble date plaque reads, "Grace M.E. Church, built 1893, rebuilt May 25, 1924, Pastor S.G. Dix." A cemetery of above ground vaults surrounds the church on two sides, and a church hall is sited on the north side of Fitzgerald Road.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. 8356

Magi No. 2003565708

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Grace M.E. Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South side of Fitzgerald Road ___ not for publication

city, town Venton ___X vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	___X occupied	___ agriculture ___ museum
___X building(s)	___X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial ___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational ___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment ___X religious
___ object	___ in process	___X yes: restricted	___ government ___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial ___ transportation
	___X not applicable	___ no	___ military ___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Grace M.E. Church

street & number Fitzgerald Road telephone no.:

city, town Princess Anne state and zip code MD 21853

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-356

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Grace M.E. Church stands on the south side of the intersection of Fitzgerald and Drawbridge roads in the vicinity of Venton, Somerset County, Maryland. The tee-plan frame church faces northwest with the principal gable oriented on a northwest/southeast axis. Across Fitzgerald Road is a single-story community hall.

Rebuilt in 1924, this tee-shaped frame church is supported by an infilled brick pier foundation, and is covered by a uniform layer of asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof has extended eaves and open soffits.

The northwest (main) elevation is an uneven facade with a gable front wall and an adjacent two-story entrance tower. The gable front wall surface has a simplified Palladian colored glass window that lights the sanctuary and a small diamond window in the upper gable. A narrow brick stove stack rises from the east side of the northwest gable end. The marble date plaque is fixed in the lower northwest corner of the foundation and reads, "Grace M.E. Church, built, 1893, rebuilt May 25, 1924, Pastor S. G. Dix." The north face of the entrance tower has a double leaf front door topped by a pointed colored glass transom. The upper level is pierced by a pointed arch colored glass window, and the tower is capped by a shallow pyramidal roof. Single colored glass windows light each floor of the tower from the west, and one identical window pierces the north wall of the west leg.

The west gable end of the church is marked by the same tripartite Palladian window, while the upper gable is lighted by a diamond light. Rising from the south roof slope of the west gable is a narrow brick stove stack.

The south side of the church has a shed roofed infill, and the gable end elevation of the sanctuary is defined by two pointed arch colored glass windows. The upper gable is also pierced by a small colored glass light.

The east end consists of a large gable roofed apse which is marked by four colored glass windows with flat arches, while a diamond window pierces the upper gable.

The interior was not seen on the initial visit.

Surrounding the church on two sides is the cemetery with its partially above-ground concrete burial vaults. Across the road is an early twentieth-century church hall which rests on a rusticated concrete block foundation, and is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The medium pitched asphalt shingle roof has extended eaves with exposed rafter feet. The structure is lighted by two over two sash windows.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1924

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

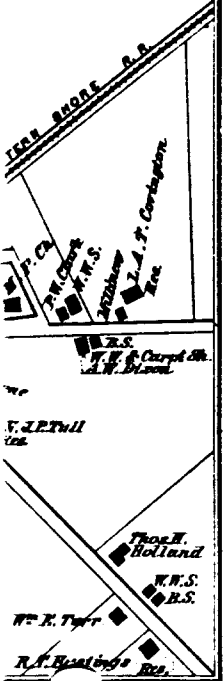
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Grace M.E. Church is one of the latest examples of rural black churches in Somerset County. Built in 1924, this tee-plan structure follows the same pattern as several churches erected during the previous half-century. Contrasting features include the Palladian type principal windows instead of Gothic arched ones. Evidently this church was erected on the same foundation as the 1893 structure.

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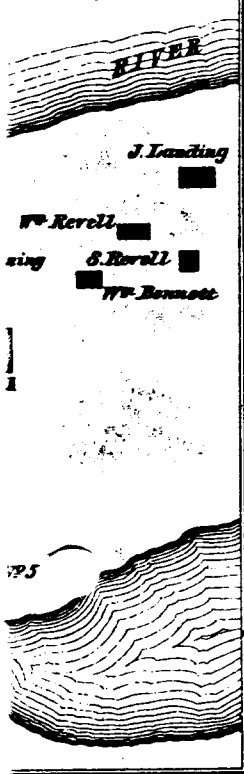


PRINCESS ANNE

Dist. N^o 1
SOMERSET CO.

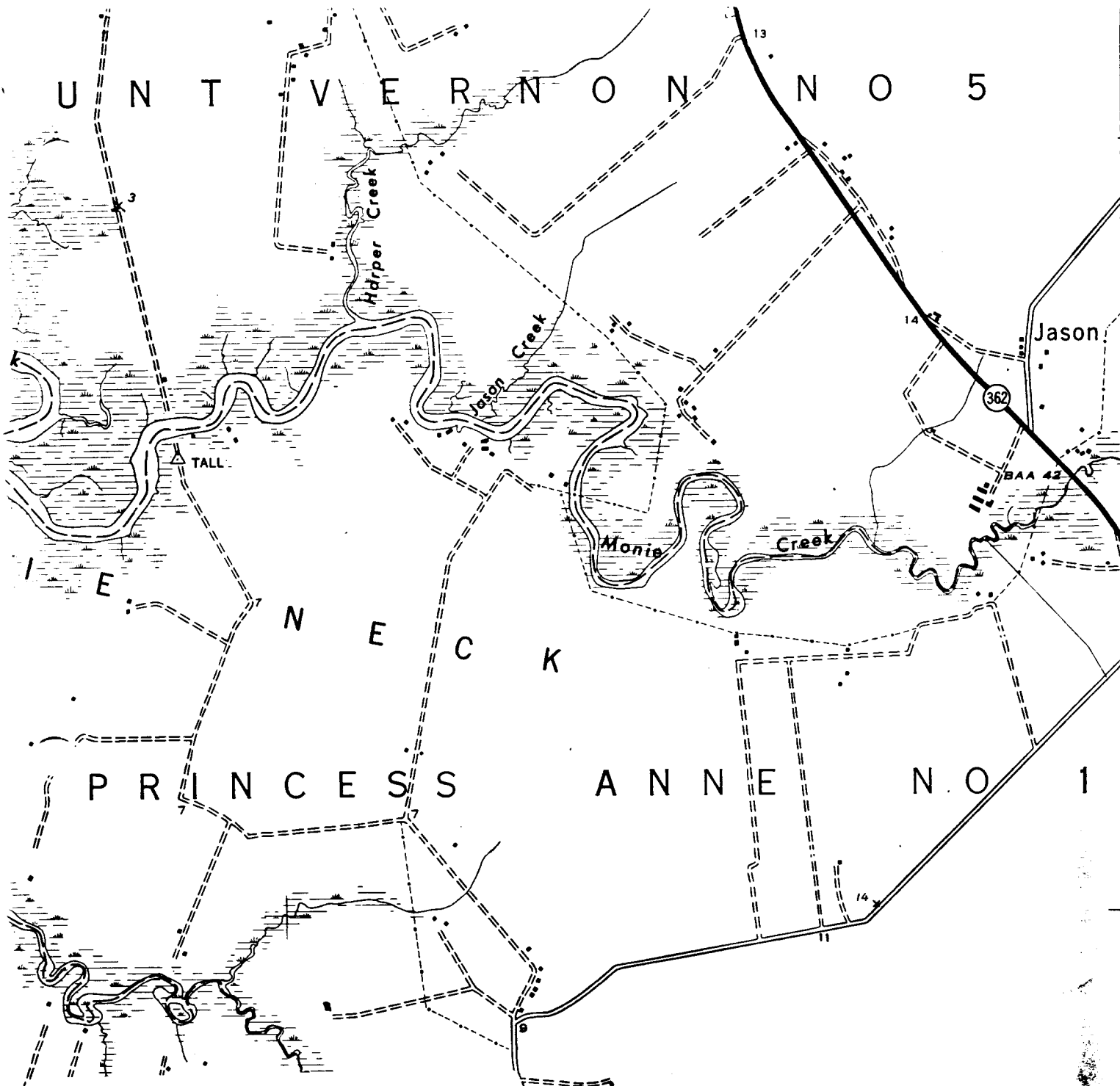
ISLAND

ET CO.
District
& Co. Proprietors



U N T V E R N O N 5

150 000
FEET



Jason

TALL

Monie

Creek

362

BAA 42

P R I N C E S S A N N E N O 1

PRINCESS ANNE 4.1 MI

12'30"

S-350
Grace M. E. Church
Monie, MD, Quadrangle, 1942

Venton

WEST PRINCESS ANNE
NO 1

ST PETERS NO 2

P E T E R S

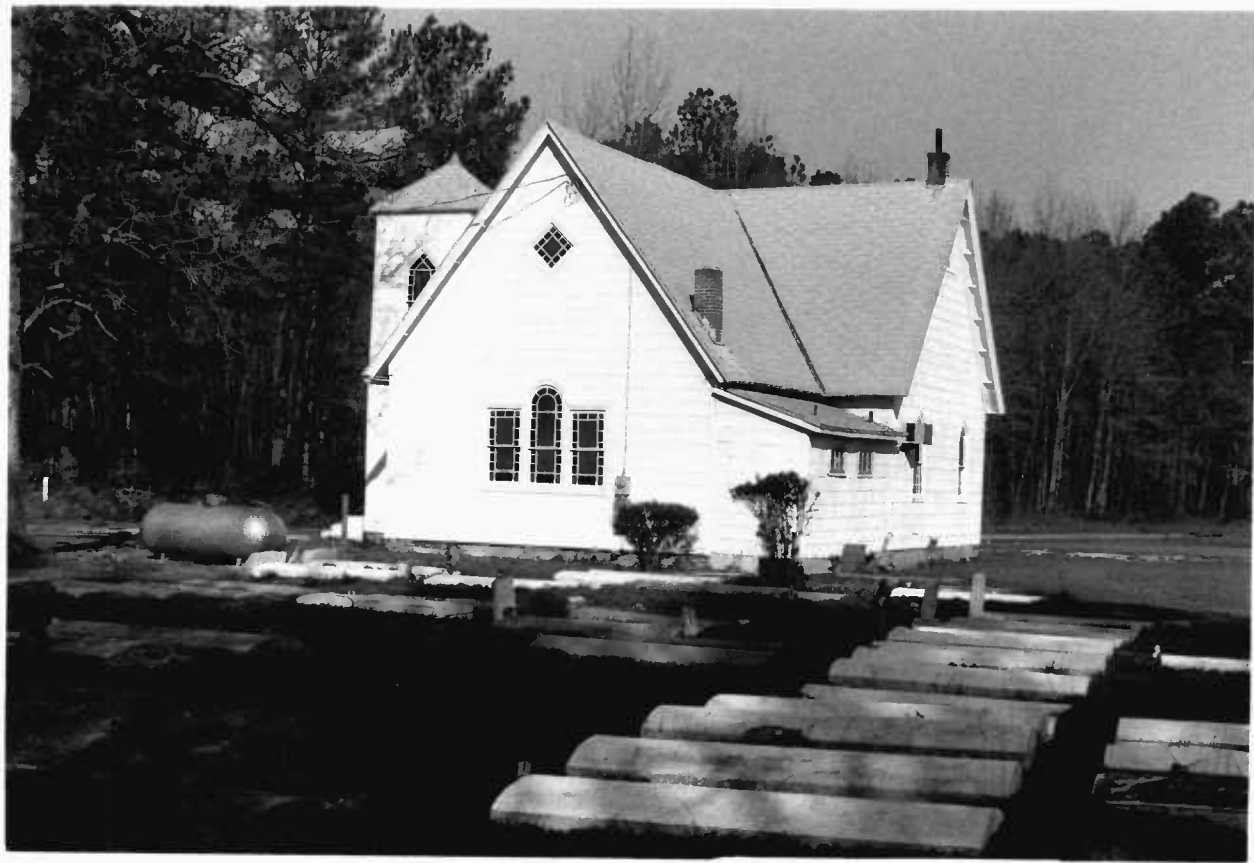
BM U56

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363

BM S56

PRINCESS ANNE (PRINCESS ANNE)
3.4 MI.



Grace M.E. Church

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Venton vicinity, Somerset Co. Md.

West Elevation

4/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Grace M.E. Church

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Venton vicinity, Somerset Co. Md

South Elevation

4/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/Md. Historical Trust